

Message Text

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17

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 MMO-01 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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P 191012Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3996

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, OGEN, NP

SUBJECT: PERMIT TO CLIMB MT. EVEREST - REVEREND FORD

REF: KATHMANDU 3913

1. EMBASSY OFFICER (FISCHER) WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY JANUARY 19 TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF CONSULAR AND
MOUNTAINEERING DIVISION, UNDER SECRETARY MOHAN PANDE.

2. PANDE GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING TEXT OF SECOND CABLE
RECEIVED FROM REV. FORD. (FOR FIRST CABLE SEE KATHMANDU 3913).
QUOTE: TO KING BIRENDRA ROYAL PALACE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY.
FOREIGN MINISTRY REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM JANUARY 10. FRANCE
AND 40 NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN OUR BICENTENNIAL BUT
NEPAL REFUSES EVEN TO FOLLOW ITS OWN LAWS, MUCH LESS MAKE
EXCEPTION FOR BICENTENNIAL FRIENDSHIP AS FRANCE DID. JANUARY 10
I CABLED KING BIRENDRA (SEE HIS TELEGRAM) TO MAKE GOVERNMENT
ABIDE BY NEPALESE LAW. IF EVEREST IS SO SPECIAL WHY WAS IT
NOT EXCLUDED IN LAW YEARS AGO?
THEN ISSUE SOLO PERMITS FOR LHOTSE AND NUPTSE AND
TEAM PERMIT FOR EVEREST WINTER. OTHERWISE EXPEDITION
IS GIRL'S WALK. IF YOU MAKE ME TEAM PERMIT, WHICH I
ACCEPT, THEN ISSUE IT NOW. NAMES OF ALL MEMBERS WILL
BE SUBMITTED LATER. REPLY VIA TELEGRAM. SIGNED:
REVEREND FORD. END QUOTE

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3. PANDE THEN SAID THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE. QUOTE: SUCH COMMUNICATIONS FROM AN EXPEDITION WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ARE VERY UPSETTING. HMG BELIEVES THAT THIS TYPE OF TELEGRAM CANNOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE FUTURE AND SHOULD REVEREND FORD CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE IN THIS FASHION HE MAY LOSE THE PERMIT WHICH HAS BEEN GRANTED TO HIM IN PRINCIPLE. END QUOTE

4. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT MFA MUST UNDERSTAND THAT COMMUNICATIONS FROM FORD ARE FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL AND IN NO WAY REPRESENT VIEWS OF THE US GOVERNMENT. HE AGREED THAT LANGUAGE USED BY FORD WAS INTEMPERATE, BUT THAT AS U.S. OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT MADE CLEAR, THAT ENDORSEMENT WAS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF HMG AND IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED A BLANKET ENDORSEMENT OF REVEREND FORD'S ACTIONS. HE ALSO AGREED TO REPORT THE MINISTRY'S REACTION TO FORD'S LATEST TELEGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. PANDE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED COPY OF FORD TELEGRAM OF JANUARY 10 TO WHICH FORD REFERS IN HIS LATEST TELEGRAM, BUT HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WAS NOT "AS INSULTING" AS THAT SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER WERE "DEEPLY DISTURBED" BY THIS LATEST "OUTBURST" WHICH COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY MINISTRY.

6. AS FOR FORD'S ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS, PANDE SAID MFA WOULD NOT ACT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FORD HAS SUBMITTED LIST OF QUALIFIED CLIMBERS (FOUR OR FIVE) WHO WOULD FORM EXPEDITION AS REQUIRED BY MINISTRY AND THAT BIO INFORMATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED SOONEST.

7. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT WE HAVE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS PROBLEM HERE IN VIEW OF REV. FORD TELEGRAMS AND GON REACTION TO THEM. IN INFORMING FORD OF MFA POSITION IN PARA. 6 ABOVE, DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH LET HIM KNOW MINISTRY'S SERIOUS REACTION TO HIS TWO TELEGRAMS THEY HAVE RECEIVED.

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CARGO

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